

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 141659Z SEP 76 ZFD
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5517
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AEMBASSY LONDON 2266
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: SF, RH, PINS, PFOR

SUB: VORSTER INDICATES THERE WILL BE NO CONCESSIONS
ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

REF: PRETORIA 4048

1. VORSTER TOLD OVERFLOW AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 5,000 AT
TRANVAAL NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS IN PRETORIA ON SEPT 13
THAT SAG HAD NO INTENTION OF MOVING AWAY FROM POLICY OF
SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH IT HAD BEEN VOTED INTO
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POWER IN 1948. MAIN POINTS OF SPEECH WERE:

A. BLACKS WERE ONLY HURTING THEMSELVES BY RIOTING , NOT ONLY IN DESTROYING BLACK FACILITIES, BUT IN DESTROYING THE GOODWILL WHICH THEY "WOULD DESPERATELY NEED IN THE FUTURE." IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES FOR BLACKS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT RESTORATION OF THOSE DESTROYED DURING DISTURBANCES;

B. NO CRISIS IN SOUTH AFRICA. RELATIONS BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK, ENGLISH AND AFRIKANER WERE EXCELLENT. IF THERE IS ANY MAN IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO HAD AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMBITIONS OF THE BLACK, THE INDIAN AND THE COLORED, IT IS HIMSELF;

C. CERTAIN POLITICIANS AND CHURCH LEADERS HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICA'S EXISTING ORDER, AND WERE DEMANDING A NATIONAL (MULTIRACIAL) CONVENTION TO FRAME A NEW CONSTITUTION. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTION WAS TO BRING ABOUT ONE MAN ONE VOTE IN THE COUNTRY AND TO ESCAPE FROM ALL THE BENEFICIAL MEASURES THAT SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT HAD BROUGHT. VORSTER UNDERLINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF MOVING AWAY FROM SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT;

D. POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR AFRICANS HAD BEEN SPELLED OUT IN EXISTING NATIONAL PARTY POLICY; "THEY WOULD HAVE TO FIND THEM THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE HOMELANDS;"

E. SOUTH AFRICA HAD REFUSED TO APPLY SANCTIONS OR CLOSE BORDERS WITH RHODESIA, AND DID NOT PRESCRIBE WHAT ITS POLICIES SHOULD BE. HOWEVER, VORSTER NOTED, PM SMITH HAS ACCEPTED MAJORITY RULE AS A PRINCIPLE.

"I HOPE AND TRUST THAT POLITICAL SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND FOR THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND IF DR. KISSINGER COMES WITH SUCH A SOLUTION THEN HE WILL FIND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH HIM;"

F. VORSTER NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A TIME WHEN THE US AND OTHERS HAD LARGELY IGNORED SOUTH AFRICA, BUT THIS HAS CHANGED. EEC HAD COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFORTS BEING MADE NOW TO ACHIEVE PEACE. AFRICAN LEADERS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED SOUTH AFRICA'S KEY ROLE. US IS LEADING ANTI-COMMUNIST FIGHT, AND WEST COULD NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT US HELP. "IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER WE LIKE THEM OR NOT, OR WHETHER THEY LIKE US OR NOT, BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE US IS NOT ONLY THE BIGGEST DEMOCRACY BUT ALSO THE LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD. BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA IS ANTI-COMMUNIST AND IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE WESTERN

WORLD, THE US IS ALSO SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADER FOR THAT PURPOSE," VORSTER ADDED.

G. VORSTER ATTACKED POLITICAL OPPONENTS ON BOTH SIDES. HE SAID THAT FROM THE APPEARANCE OF A CABLE HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE FAR RIGHT HNP LEADER DR. ALBERT HERZOG, IT WAS A GOOD THING THE NATIONAL PARTY HAD GOTTEN RID OF THAT GROUP. OF THE UNITED PARTY LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, VORSTER SAID HE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. OF GRAAFF'S RECENT OFFER TO STEP ASIDE IF THIS WOULD BRING UNITY TO OPPOSITION GROUPS, VORSTER SAID, "WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE WOULD PROPOSE A MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE OPPOSITION LEADER, SECONDED AND ACCEPTED?"

2. COMMENT: TO THOSE LOOKING FOR CHANGES OR CONCESSIONS TO EASE CURRENT TENSIONS, THE SPEECH WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT AND COULD INCREASE DOMESTIC FRUSTRATIONS. FROM A BROADER PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT HIM TO ANNOUNCE MAJOR CHANGES IN DOMESTIC POLICY AFFECTING OTHER RACIAL GROUPS AT A TIME THAT HE IS INVOLVED IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEMS WHICH MAY INVOLVE DECISIONS ALSO DIFFICULT FOR THE PARTY TO ACCEPT.
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